NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA

When all the flooding and landsliding news hit the press from California we wrote to Mr. Ross Gast of Los Angeles to see how he had made out. You might be interested in his reply.

"It was thoughtful of you to write me, asking about our recent unpleasantness. We came through in good shape, although we did have some troubles. Both of our places are hillside sites, but the houses are on residual soils, so we had no mud slides whatsoever. In fact, 95% of the problem from slides here was on newly graded lands, with houses built on poorly compacted house pads.

"Our problem was due to my own negligence. I failed to test out the sump pump in our furnace room last fall. a practice which I have found to be good insurance in the past. During the heavy rains, seepage filled my furnace room up above the gas burners in both our heating units and water heater when the pump failed to activate (by float). This was on a Friday night. I was able to get the gas off by myself, but could do nothing about the water. Luckily, I have a plumber friend who will work on Saturday, and he came over and pumped out the furnace room, and installed an emergency pump, one that had to be activated by switch every three hours. So during the entire weekend I had to be up every three hours to keep the water down. The burners did not dry out until Monday, but he got them going about noon. We lived in our bedroom with an electric heater going."

We also received word that Mr. Gast is now fully employed. Mr. Gast will be 72 this year. Here is the announcement from Western Grower & Shipper Publishing Company.

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE. . . .

Ross H. Gast has been appointed Editor of the Western Grower & Shipper as of February 1st.

Western Grower & Shipper is really Ross' "Baby." He concieved the idea of a magazine for the row crop

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industry, secured the necessary financing, and began publication with the December, 1929 issue. He served as Editor and Publisher for 17 years, selling his interest in 1946 to the Western Growers Association, then a minority stockholder, to devote his full time to the promotion of Twist-ems wire ties.

He continued in this work until 1958, and since that time has been connected with the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum collecting plants for them in many parts of the world. However, he has never lost touch with the vegetable and melon industry, having served as its Public Relations Consultant since 1959.

Signed: A. T. Arena, President.

Good luck on your new job, Ross.

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A WORD TO JUDGES

The new judge list has been sent to all chapter presidents, Please see that the correct person in your chapter gets it.

We have been asked to remind all judges to send in their acceptance or rejection as soon as they receive the invitation to judge a show. Last year a few of the judges did not take the trouble to answer when they received the invitation. This leaves the chapter judge chairman at a loss to know what to do.

PLEASE ANSWER YOUR CARDS WHEN YOU RECEIVE THEM.

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Voice (over telephone): "Are you the game warden?"
Game Warden: "Yes, Ma'am."
Voice: "Thank goodness I have the right person at last. What do you suggest for a child's birthday party?"

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